

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 A method of providing a third party logging proxy
2 server, said method comprising:
3 obtaining one or more product identifiers from one or
4 more providers, each product identifier
5 corresponding to a product;
6 receiving a product sale identifier from a merchant;
7 identifying one of the product identifiers that
8 corresponds to the product sale identifier; and
9 storing a sales record in response to receiving the
10 product sale identifier.
- 1 2. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2 receiving a royalty rate corresponding with at least
3 one of the product identifiers from one of the
4 providers;
5 wherein the storing further includes:
6 calculating an account balance for the merchant.
- 1 3. The method as described in claim 2 further comprising:
2 receiving a payment from the merchant in response to
3 receiving the product sale identifier,
4 wherein the payment is calculated based on the
5 received royalty rate corresponding to the
6 product sale identifier.
- 1 4. The method as described in claim 2 further comprising:
2 calculating an account balance for the provider
3 corresponding with the identified product
4 identifier.

1 5. The method as described in claim 4 further comprising:
2 transferring funds corresponding to the provider's
3 account balance to the provider; and
4 modifying the provider's account balance in response
5 to the transferring.

1 6. The method as described in claim 2 further comprising:
2 receiving a payment from the merchant corresponding to
3 the merchant's account balance; and
4 modifying the merchant's account balance in response
5 to receiving the payment.

1 7. The method as described in claim 1 wherein the
2 products include digital works, the method further
3 comprising:
4 receiving one or more digital works from the
5 providers;
6 storing the works on a nonvolatile storage device;
7 receiving a download request from a merchant computer
8 corresponding to the merchant; and
9 downloading one of the digital works to the merchant
10 computer in response to receiving the download
11 request.

1 8. The method as described in claim 7 further comprising:
2 receiving one or more royalty rates from the providers
3 corresponding to the digital works; and
4 providing the royalty rates to the merchant.

1 9. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2 registering each provider with the third party logging
3 proxy server prior to the obtaining; and

4 providing each provider with an access mechanism in
5 response to the registering.

1 10. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2 registering the merchant with the third party logging
3 proxy server prior to the receiving; and
4 providing the merchant with an access mechanism in
5 response to the registering.

1 11. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2 receiving a merchant inquiry from one of the
3 providers;
4 searching a data store in response to the inquiry;
5 preparing a search result in response to the
6 searching; and
7 returning the search result to the provider.

1 12. The method as described in claim 11 wherein the search
2 result includes whether one or more merchants are
3 registered with the third party logging proxy server.

1 13. An information handling system comprising:
2 one or more processors;
3 a memory accessible by the processors;
4 a network interface connecting the information
5 handling system to a computer network;
6 a nonvolatile storage device accessible by the
7 processors; and
8 a logging tool, the logging tool including:
9 means for obtaining one or more product
10 identifiers from one or more provider
11 computers connected to the computer network,

12 each product identifier corresponding to a
13 product;
14 means for receiving a product sale identifier
15 from a merchant computer connected to the
16 computer network;
17 means for identifying one of the product
18 identifiers that corresponds to the product
19 sale identifier; and
20 means for storing a sales record in response to
21 receiving the product sale identifier.

1 14. The information handling system as described in claim
2 13 further comprising:

3 means for receiving a royalty rate corresponding with
4 at least one of the product identifiers from one
5 of the provider computers;

6 wherein the means for storing further includes:

7 means for calculating an account balance for the
8 merchant corresponding to the merchant
computer.

1 15. The information handling system as described in claim
2 14 further comprising:

3 means for receiving a payment from the merchant in
4 response to receiving the product sale
5 identifier,

6 wherein the payment is calculated based on the
7 received royalty rate corresponding to the
8 product sale identifier.

1 16. The information handling system as described in claim
2 14 further comprising:

3 means for calculating an account balance for the
4 provider corresponding with the identified
5 product identifier.

1 17. The information handling system as described in claim
2 16 further comprising:

3 means for transferring funds corresponding to the
4 provider's account balance to the provider; and
5 means for modifying the provider's account balance in
6 response to the transferring.

1 18. The information handling system as described in claim
2 14 further comprising:

3 means for receiving a payment from the merchant
4 corresponding to the merchant's account balance;
5 and
6 means for modifying the merchant's account balance in
7 response to receiving the payment.

1 19. The information handling system as described in claim
2 13 wherein the products include digital works, the
3 information handling system further comprising:
4 means for receiving one or more digital works from the
5 provider computers;
6 means for storing the works on the nonvolatile storage
7 device;
8 means for receiving a download request from the
9 merchant computer; and
10 means for downloading one of the digital works to the
11 merchant computer in response to receiving the
12 download request.

1 20. The information handling system as described in claim
2 19 further comprising:
3 means for receiving one or more royalty rates from the
4 providers corresponding to the digital works; and
5 means for providing the royalty rates to the merchant.

1 21. The information handling system as described in claim
2 13 further comprising:
3 means for registering each provider computer with the
4 third party logging proxy server prior to the
5 means for obtaining; and
6 means for providing each provider computer with an
7 access mechanism in response to the registering.

1 22. The information handling system as described in claim
2 13 further comprising:
3 means for registering the merchant computer with the
4 third party logging proxy server prior to the
5 means for receiving; and
6 means for providing the merchant computer with an
7 access mechanism in response to the registering.

1 23. The information handling system as described in claim
2 13 further comprising:
3 means for receiving a merchant inquiry from one of the
4 provider computers;
5 means for searching the nonvolatile storage device in
6 response to the inquiry;
7 means for preparing a search result in response to the
8 searching; and
9 means for returning the search result to the provider
10 computer.

1 24. The information handling system as described in claim
2 23 wherein the search result includes whether one or
3 more merchants are registered with the third party
4 logging proxy server.

1 25. A computer program product for providing a third party
2 logging proxy server, said computer program product
3 comprising:

4 means for obtaining one or more product identifiers

5 from one or more providers, each product

6 identifier corresponding to a product;

7 means for receiving a product sale identifier from a

8 merchant;

9 means for identifying one of the product identifiers

10 that corresponds to the product sale identifier;

11 and

12 means for storing a sales record in response to

13 receiving the product sale identifier.

1 26. The computer program product as described in claim 25
2 further comprising:

3 means for receiving a royalty rate corresponding with

4 at least one of the product identifiers from one

5 of the providers;

6 wherein the means for storing further includes:

7 means for calculating an account balance for the

8 merchant.

1 27. The computer program product as described in claim 26
2 further comprising:

3 means for receiving a payment from the merchant in
4 response to receiving the product sale
5 identifier,
6 wherein the payment is calculated based on the
7 received royalty rate corresponding to the
8 product sale identifier.

1 28. The computer program product as described in claim 26
2 further comprising:
3 means for calculating an account balance for the
4 provider corresponding with the identified
5 product identifier.

1 29. The computer program product as described in claim 25
2 further comprising:
3 means for transferring funds corresponding to the
4 provider's account balance to the provider; and
5 means for modifying the provider's account balance in
6 response to the transferring.

1 30. The computer program product as described in claim 26
2 further comprising:
3 means for receiving a payment from the merchant
4 corresponding to the merchant's account balance;
5 and
6 means for modifying the merchant's account balance in
7 response to receiving the payment.

1 31. The computer program product as described in claim 25
2 wherein the products include digital works, the
3 computer program product further comprising:
4 means for receiving one or more digital works from the
5 providers;

6 means for storing the works on a nonvolatile storage
7 device;
8 means for receiving a download request from a merchant
9 computer corresponding to the merchant; and
10 means for downloading one of the digital works to the
11 merchant computer in response to receiving the
12 download request.

1 32. The computer program product as described in claim 31
2 further comprising:
3 means for receiving one or more royalty rates from the
4 providers corresponding to the digital works; and
5 means for providing the royalty rates to the merchant.

1 33. The computer program product as described in claim 25
2 further comprising:
3 means for registering each provider with the third
4 party logging proxy server prior to the
5 obtaining; and
6 means for providing each provider with an access
7 mechanism in response to the registering.

1 34. The computer program product as described in claim 25
2 further comprising:
3 means for registering the merchant with the third
4 party logging proxy server prior to the
5 receiving; and
6 means for providing the merchant with an access
7 mechanism in response to the registering.

1 35. The computer program product as described in claim 25
2 further comprising:

3 means for receiving a merchant inquiry from one of the
4 providers;

5 means for searching a data store in response to the
6 inquiry;

7 means for preparing a search result in response to the
8 ~~and~~ searching; and

9 means for returning the search result to the provider.

1 36. The computer program product as described in claim 35
2 wherein the search result includes whether one or more
3 merchants are registered with the third party logging
4 proxy server.